

umanities West presents  
to sponsor with the Asian Art Museum of San Francisco  
and presented in cooperation with The Japan Society of  
Northern California, The Society for Asian Art, and the  
San Francisco Museum of Modern Art.

1880-1930







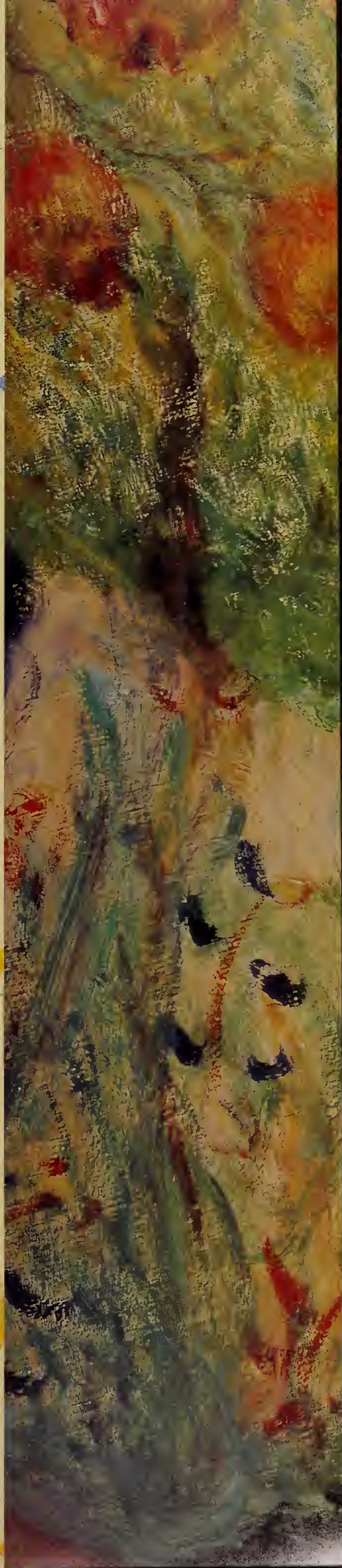
ENCOUNTER THE JAPANESE



**L**ike the mythical Shangri-la, Japan held itself inviolate, utterly untouched by Western thought for generations. Then, spurred by Japan's Emperor Meiji, a great explosion of cross-cultural exploration occurred in the late 19th century, much of it revolving around the salons and Impressionist artists' studios of Paris. Japanese scientists, artists, and writers set out to discover the world, and the rest is history.

Discover the men and women who shaped Japan's 20th-century vision. Uncover the Impressionists' role in Japanese art. Hear renowned lecturers speak on the history, politics, and ideas, and experience the transformation for yourself through 19th-century photographs and Impressionist paintings. A Japanese Impressionist piano recital. Poetry and dance. A volatile discussion of the current Japanese-Impressionist connection. And a reception featuring sake and Japanese delicacies.

*I M P R E S S I O N I S T S*





PARIS IN JAPAN AND JAPAN  
TOKYO ENCOUNTERS AMERICA

*Friday, January 13, 1989  
8:00-10:30pm  
Trustees' Auditorium, Asian Art Museum*

**LECTURE: "JAPAN IN TRANSITION: SHIFTING POLICIES  
AND PERCEPTIONS"**

The intriguing 19th-century meeting of European and Japanese thought was a moment unique in time. Although the seeds of artistic renovation had been planted earlier in the century, it was the Meiji government's policies and the Western world's response that parlayed Japanese art into the Impressionist movement. Art historian Ellen Conant explores the political and historical currents of the period and places this extraordinary cross-cultural pollination in context.

LECTURE: "JAPAN BEFORE WESTERNIZATION: A VIEW  
THROUGH 19TH-CENTURY PHOTOGRAPHS"

Commodore Perry's bold penetration of Japan's borders uncovered a country completely untouched by the outside world for three centuries. Scores of 19th-century photographers came to document one of the last great ethnographic mysteries of this planet. Now, historian Clark Worswick leads a photographic tour of Japan as it stood on the brink of radical and irreversible change.

RECEPTION:

Sake and Japanese delicacies in the Museum's Gruhn Court complete the evening's offerings.

Tickets: \$15-\$28 (Complete series \$40-\$70)  
Doors open at 7:30pm

*Saturday, January 14, 1989  
10:00am to 5:00pm  
Herbst Theatre*

LECTURE: "A LOOK AT JAPANESE ARTISTS IN PARIS"

Cézanne, Renoir, Gauguin, and the School of Paris. Most of the Japanese artists who ventured abroad set their sights on the center of the Western art world, and forged a new artistic language based on the traditions of the School of Paris. This illustrated lecture by Gerald D. Bolas, Director of the Portland Art Museum, delves into the Impressionists' effect on Japanese artists and their American confrères.

MUSIC: IMPRESSIONIST PIANO RECITAL

The merging of Japanese musical traditions and Western idiom created distinctly original music. Pianist Masa Fukui performs a program of such works by Japanese composers Hisatada Otaka and Tomojiro Ikenouchi, the first Japanese to enter the Paris Conservatoire.



**POETRY READING: "THE POET KÔTARÔ TAKAMURA  
AND HIS FRENCH EXPERIENCE"**

Kôtarô Takamura's Parisian studies led him to integrate Western and Eastern artistic ideals in his work. He introduced modern sculpture to Japan, wrote the first collection of modern free verse, and penned the most famous series of love poems in modern Japan. Hiroaki Sato, Deputy Director of JETRO (New York and translator of Japanese poetry), reads from and discusses the work of this pivotal figure in Japanese arts.

**LECTURE: "IDEAS OF PARIS IN TOKYO"**

The University of Maryland's Thomas Rimer discusses the profound impact of the Parisian vision on the artists and intellectuals of Meiji Tokyo as they worked to bridge the gap between cultures. Their efforts, often heroic, vividly illustrate their desire to create a new artistic and creative personality while remaining at the same time both cosmopolitan and Japanese.

**DANCE: "DANCES FROM THE REPERTORY OF MICHIO ITO"**

He taught some of the greatest names in American modern dance, yet few today have heard of the mercurial Michio Ito. His student, dancer and choreographer Satoru Shimazaki, recreates Ito's dances in this flamboyantly costumed display of works at once simple and worldly.

**PANEL DISCUSSION: "THE IMPACT OF FRENCH ART  
ON JAPAN TODAY"**

Today's Japanese art collectors are scooping up Impressionist paintings at astronomical prices, causing controversy and consternation in the art world. Moderated by Rand Castile, representatives from national auction houses and San Francisco's art galleries discuss the current Japanese-Impressionist connection and its effect on today's art market.

Tickets: \$25-\$45 (Complete series \$40-\$70)  
Doors open at 9:30 a.m.